

Mayor Dean Trantalis of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is the recipient of the Alan Schubert Award of Excellence. Mayor Trantalis has a long track record of public service, beginning with his involvement in the fight for equal rights.

In 2012, Florida State Representative David Richardson became the first-elected openly gay state legislator in Florida's history. Mr. Richardson quickly earned the respect of his colleagues for his work on criminal justice and prison reform, sensible gun violence prevention measures, promotion of traditional public schools, and steadfast commitment to civil liberties and equal rights for all.

Craig Stevens, a NATAS Silver Circle recipient and Emmy Award winner, is a fixture of the South Florida Community. Craig is active in several charities and organizations. He spent several years as vice-president of the Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences where he also chaired a committee that mentored young TV professionals throughout the southeastern United States.

Again, congratulations to these outstanding individuals. I look forward to hearing of their continued service activities.

TRIBUTE TO JIM WINEMILLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jim Winemiller. Jim was awarded the Taylor County Conservation Leadership Award.

The Leadership Award is a joint effort of the Taylor County Soil and Water Conservation District, Taylor County Board of Supervisors, and the Taylor County Conservation Board to recognize the exemplary efforts of Taylor County's conservation leaders, committed to improving wildlife habitat, water quality, and conservation in Taylor County. Since 1990, Jim has worked as the Conservation Board Director and enjoyed creating and bettering outdoor recreation opportunities for the community. One of his greatest achievements was the improvement of Sand Timber Lake and watershed near Blockton.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Jim for this award. I am proud to represent him and Taylor County Conservation in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jim and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

MALIK JOHNES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Malik Johnes for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Malik Johnes is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Malik Johnes is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Malik Johnes for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

U.S.-SERBIA RELATIONSHIP

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct honor for me to talk about the great relationship we have with Serbia as co-chair of the Congressional Serbia Caucus.

Serbia is a great friend of the United States. As a Texan, I have great admiration for the people of Serbia. Our strong opinions and habit to speak our minds make us natural allies.

In fact, one of the first people to settle in Texas was a Serbian named Dorde Sagic, or George Fischer as he was known in the U.S.

After settling in Texas, Sagic went on to become a justice of the peace in my hometown of Houston.

But Serbia has contributed much more to the cause of justice than just Mr. Sagic keeping the early streets of Houston safe.

Today we honor the service of Serbia's armed forces who have fought side-by-side with Americans to preserve justice during history's most horrific conflicts.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson gave a speech marking the fourth anniversary of Austria-Hungary's invasion of Serbia. Speaking of the bravery of the Serbian armed forces, President Wilson said:

"Nobly did they respond. So valiantly and courageous did they oppose the forces of a country ten times greater in population and resources. . . While their territory has been devastated and their homes despoiled, the spirit of the Serbian people has not been broken."

As a Texan, I admire such defiance against overwhelming odds.

Like President Wilson, I am proud to share the stories of Serbia's bravery here in Washington.

I believe the most meaningful for Americans is the story of the Halyard Mission during the dark days of the Second World War.

While under Nazi-occupation, the Serbian people demonstrated their bravery as they played a crucial role in the largest rescue operation of American airmen in history.

In 1944, American bombers were flying frequent missions to strike Germany's vital oil supplies in Romania as part of the allied advance into Europe.

The 15th Air Force led this effort by launching nearly 20,000 sorties into Eastern Europe, with many of the missions flying over Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia. As many as 1,500 pilots and airmen were shot down during these courageous air raids.

Serbians, who had been resisting German forces since 1941, risked their own lives to rescue American aircrews and hide them from patrolling Nazis.

For months these brave and noble Serbians cared for and protected American and allied pilots.

By August 1944, the allied forces, including the 15th Air Force and Office of Strategic Services, devised a daring operation to evacuate the hundreds of allied pilots being sheltered by the Serbian resistance.

American aircraft flew into enemy territory and evacuated these airmen from an air field built and protected by local Serbians near the village of Pranjani.

For over 60 years this operation was kept secret. But now we can remember the courage of our Serbian friends and say thank you.

The spirit of the Halyard mission still lives on today as a remarkable story of resistance and heroism.

As was the case in both World Wars, Serbia and the U.S. still face shared threats.

About 600 foreign fighters in Syria have come from the Balkan states. ISIS and al-Qaeda terrorists present a threat to Serbia and the region just as they present a threat to the U.S.

We must continue to coordinate with our Serbian partners to stop returning terrorists and neutralize networks that recruit fighters in the Balkans.

The U.S. is also working with Serbia to improve its independent judiciary and fight corruption. A democratic Serbia with a strong rule of law is in America's interests.

But there are others who do not share this goal.

Russian disinformation efforts are designed to keep Serbia in its sphere of influence and poison our warming friendship.

Nevertheless, Serbia's integration to the West has continued to move forward.

In 2006, Serbia joined NATO's Partnership for Peace program and, in 2015, signed an Individual Partnership Action Plan with the alliance to strengthen cooperation.

Recently the European Union announced that Serbia could join the EU as early as 2025. I applaud this step which will strengthen Belgrade's political institutions and economic ties with the West.

Together we share the same dreams of a bright and free future for both our countries.

We are blessed to have brave men and women that ensure our futures are bright and free.

Thank you to the Serbian armed forces for standing with America in the wars of the past and in the challenges we will face together in the future.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK WESTERN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Chuck Western who was inducted into the Union County Cattlemen's Hall of Fame at their annual banquet earlier this year.

Chuck has been a long time livestock producer and row crop farmer. He was an original